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Let us accustom ourselves accurately to examine into the causes of our sensations, and before we suffer ourselves to be carried away by our first impressions, let us see if the things we admire, are really worth what they cost. Habits of reflection early adopted, and uniformly recurred to, strengthen the mind, and enable it to form a judgment with precision.

My view is not to give a regular essay, or a studied account of a tour. If I succeed in conveying an impression of my feelings during my late journey, and afford some materials to assist thought in reflecting minds, my object is answered. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE VIEW
OF INSTITUTIONS, OR SCHOOLS FOR
THE RELIEF OF THE INDUSTRIOUS
BLIND.

LIVERPOOL.

Instituted as an Asylum, 1791, opened as
a School, 1800.

PUPILS.

*Their number when admitted, &c.
Boarders or not, &c.*

SEVENTY-EIGHT, generally exceed seventy, and are to be increased to one hundred, more males than females. Since the commencement in 1791, two hundred and forty one persons have been received.

Age. Admitted at twelve, and not after forty five (except musical pupils who may be taken in at eight, and above forty five, if they have received any previous instruction) are preferred between twelve and eighteen.

Not dieted, or lodged, but will be when the new buildings shall be completed. Have some allowance of provisions, and receive weekly money or wages, part of which in general is paid by friends or parishes.

A few supported entirely by their friends, are allowed to avail themselves of the benefits of the institution.

Hours of working, from six, morning in summer, and eight o'clock in winter, till six in summer, and five in winter, viz. two hours being allowed for meals.

Trades, Manufactures, Machinery.

Spinning, hamper and basket making, plating of sash line, and window cord,

weaving of worsted rugs, for hearths and carriages, and floor cloths, sacking, making sacks, list shoes, Foot-bears, points and gaskets from old ropes; sheeting, huckaback, tea-rugs, tarred and untarred lobby cloths.

Music. And to tune, quill, string and repair instruments, also to teach music, viz. on the organ and harpsichord (other instrument would rather tend to induce vagrant habits.)

Machinery. Besides looms and spinning wheels, a peculiar platting machine, and weaving geers for lobby cloths.

Most of the trades can be learned in two or three years, and several of them by the same person.

Income, Funds, and rate of Contribution.

| | 1807. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|-----|----|
| Annual subscriptions | 1080 | 9 | 0 | |
| Donations and benefactions | 686 | 1 | 0 | |
| Legacies | 514 | 1 | 0 | |
| Found in poor-boxes | 218 | 11 | 8½ | |
| Allowances from parishes | 419 | 10 | 7 | |
| Interest on public securities and money in bank | 152 | 13 | 11 | |
| Gross product of goods manufactured and sold | 1372 | 2 | 5 | |
| Arrears and debts | 224 | 19 | 5½ | |
| | 4699 | 13 | 1 | |
| Balance on hand, at the end of last year | 2402 | 18 | 10½ | |
| | £7102 | 11 | 11½ | |

Gross value of goods manufactured, sold, and unsold 1542 19 5
Possess. £2000 stock, three per cents.
Rate of contributions. Subscriptions from one to three guineas, many half a guinea or less. Donations few above £100. Legacies, many very large, as £1000.

Expenditure.

| | 1807. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|-----|----|
| For new buildings | 1596 | 1 | 6 | |
| Wages to pupils and teachers | 832 | 2 | 5 | |
| Six music masters, repairing instruments, music, &c. | 151 | 5 | 5 | |
| Provisions for the pupils, and used in the house | 652 | 10 | 4 | |
| Raw materials | 979 | 10 | 11½ | |
| Machinery | 246 | 1 | 0 | |
| Rewards to pupils | 121 | 1 | 11½ | |
| Articles for their use | 37 | 4 | 2 | |
| Salaries | 185 | 18 | 0 | |
| Coals, candles, printing, advertising, stamps, books, portorage, cartage, &c. | 144 | 10 | 9½ | |
| | 4946 | 6 | 0½ | |
| Balance on hand | 2156 | 5 | 5 | |
| | £7102 | 11 | 11½ | |

Officers, Teachers, &c.

A superintendant at one hundred guineas per annum. His wife and

son assist him, and with a servant have about forty five pounds. These with a weaver and a basket maker, are always on the premises.

Non resident, a secretary (who is also chaplain) at thirty one pound ten shillings; a barber at six pounds six shillings, and an indefinite number of teachers as occasion may require.

The senior pupils, give some instruction to the juniors.

Government of the School.

Vested in a president, vice president, and committee of eighteen. Two auditors, and four visitors, of whom the secretary is one.

Committee meets quarterly; the visitors oftener, at their option. On them devolves the immediate inspection of the school.

All subscribers at whatever rate, have the same privileges.

Miscellaneous Notices.

When the pupils shall be boarded, *cloathing* will then become the principal additional expense. The weekly allowance will be in a great measure withdrawn. The superintendent has a general knowledge of the trades, but this is not indispensable, as there must always be persons, having charge of particular departments. He has no share in the government of the school, nor is he a subscriber.

Pupils in *extreme indigence*, are rather to be declined, as such cannot afterwards, profit by the instructions they may receive.

Questions, touching the degree, &c. of blindness, and whether durable or not, as also regarding the previous habits, pursuits, connections and means of subsistence of applicants, are to be answered prior to admission. Printed forms to be had at the school.

EDINBURGH.
Instituted 1795, 96.

PUPILS.

Numbers when Admitted, &c.

Thirty-nine viz. twenty seven males, twelve females.

Age...Admitted at thirteen or fourteen.

Clothed, but not dieted or lodged. The males *only* work at the asylum, the women spinning in their own houses. The males attend from seven o'clock in the morning in summer,

and eight in winter, till six in the evening, an hour allowed for dinner. They receive a weekly allowance, and wages in proportion to their industry, some earn half a guinea per week.

Trades, Manufactures, Machinery.

Making mattresses of hair, wool and straw, mats of white and brown rope for kitchen doors, and of hair for upper stories, baskets, cleeves, cradles, onion and other nets, picking oakum, some have learned to weave.

No music taught, there being no occasion for organists in Scotland, but if a boy discovers great musical talent, something will be allowed to improve it.

Use no particular machinery.

Income, Funds, and rate of Contribution.

| | 1807. | £. | s. | d. |
|--|-------|-------|----|----|
| Annual subscriptions | 271 | 2 | 0 | |
| Donations | 167 | 16 | 10 | |
| Cash in poor-boxes, and at annual sermons | | 60 | 3 | 8 |
| Interest on securities, and on money in bank | | 132 | 18 | 1 |
| Gross product of goods manufactured and sold | | 1017 | 5 | 7 |
| | | 1649 | 6 | 2 |
| Value of goods on hand | | 397 | 16 | 1 |
| Cash due for goods | | 79 | 13 | 5 |
| | | £2126 | 15 | 8 |

| | | | |
|--|------|----|---|
| Gross value of goods manufactured, sold and unsold | 1494 | 15 | 1 |
| Nett profit on the labour | 283 | 11 | 7 |

Possess £5000, three per cent. cons at 6 per cent. £3000, and £435 in the hands of the banker.

Rate of contributions...Subscriptions, none above three guineas, many half a guinea. Donations, none above fifty guineas.

Expenditure.

| | 1807. | £. | s. | d. |
|--|-------|-------|----|----|
| Raw materials | | 888 | 14 | 0 |
| Wages and cloaths to the blind and overseers | | 603 | 9 | 4 |
| Candles, coals, printing and sundries | | 81 | 9 | 4 |
| Salary and allowances to superintendants | | 58 | 13 | 8 |
| Expenses on sale of old, and purchase of new asylum furniture, utensils, &c. | | 41 | 18 | 6 |
| Balance of goods on hand, and cash due as per state at the end of last year | | 322 | 9 | 6 |
| | | 1996 | 14 | 4 |
| Balance increase of stock | | 130 | 1 | 4 |
| | | £2126 | 15 | 8 |

Officers, Teachers, &c.

A superintendant at fifty five pounds per annum, with coals and candles, and a porter with thirty one pounds ten shillings, and two pair of shoes, reside.

In the commencement they got an upholsterer, and a basketmaker, but now the pupils instruct each other, which they are found to do better than those who have their sight.

Government of the school.

Vested in a president, vice president, secretary, clerk, surgeon, two auditors, and twelve directors. Meet quarterly.

Subscribers are all members of the society, and occasionally chosen directors.

Miscellaneous Notices

A new house was taken in 1806, in which it is intended that (in time) the women, as well as the men should work, but the pupils are not to be boarded, it being conceived that, in that case, there would be less stimulus to industry.

Weaving has been taught only in a few instances, and in general those trades which require machinery do not seem to have been introduced.

LONDON.

Instituted 1799.

*PUPILS.**Numbers, when Admitted, &c.*

Forty nine, viz. thirty three males, sixteen females, commenced with fifteen males, and has in about eight years sent out twenty nine persons fully instructed, and capable of earning from seven to fifteen shillings per week.

Age... Admitted at twelve, preferred between twelve and eighteen, but not rejected, while the strength is unimpaired, and fingers flexible.

Dieted, lodged, clothed, and educated. A day-school is opened contiguous, but special care is required in selecting those who attend it, as they must associate with the boarders.

Parishes and friends contribute something occasionally towards the support of pupils, to whom, on leaving the school, a portion of their earnings, and a set of tools are given.

Trades, Manufactures, Machinery, &c.

Fine and coarse thread, shoemaker's thread, window sash, and clothes line,

hampers, wicker baskets of various colours, rough and white bear mats for hearths and carriages, hemming, sewing, and getting up house and body linen, music.

Machinery... An apparatus for rendering intelligible the use and distinction of musical notes. And a plating machine, constructed purposely for the use of blind persons.

N.B. This is on a more simple principle than that in use at Liverpool.

Income, Funds, and rate of Contribution.

1807.

| TRADE ACCOUNT. | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|
| Articles sold and paid for at the school | £ | s | d. |
| | 487 | 16 | 4 |
| Ditto ditto not paid | | 81 | 0 9 |
| Ditto, manufactured, unsold | 221 | 10 | 0 |
| Raw materials unmanufactured | | 126 | 16 0 |
| Implements valued at | | 69 | 8 4 |
| Linen woven from yarn, spun at the school | | 28 | 10 0 |
| | £1015 | 1 | 5 |

ACCOUNT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.

| | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|
| Legacies and donations above twenty guineas | 1652 | 10 | 0 |
| Donations under do. | 247 | 2 | 6 |
| Annual subscriptions under do. | 1267 | 15 | 0 |
| Dividends on stock, interest on India bonds | | 192 | 3 8 |
| Rent from adjacent premises | | 47 | 10 0 |
| Allowances from parishes | | 83 | 19 0 |
| | £3491 | 0 | 2 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|
| Gross value of goods manufactured, sold and unsold | 790 | 7 | 1 |
| Profit on the labour | 554 | 4 | 5 |

Possess £7088, 13, 9, 3 per cent. cons. and four India bonds of £100 each.

Rate of contributions... Subscriptions from one to two guineas, many from five to ten. Donations, few (except to the building fund) above fifty pound. Legacies, few above five hundred.

Expenditure.

1807.

| TRADE ACCOUNT. | | | |
|--|-------|----|-------|
| Raw materials for manufacture | £. | s. | d. |
| | 341 | 11 | 7 |
| Salaries and wages to four masters, and one mistress | 194 | 3 | 6 |
| Implements of trade and repairs | | 66 | 11 8 |
| Paid former pupils for sash line | | 21 | 19 6 |
| Weaving and bleaching cloth | | 6 | 10 11 |
| | 650 | 17 | 2 |
| Balance, profit on trade | 354 | 4 | 5 |
| | £1015 | 1 | 5 |

ACCOUNT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| Provisions | 683 | 13 | 6 |
| Coals, candles, washing, &c. | 192 | 19 | 10 |
| Rent and taxes | 205 | 11 | 7 |
| Salaries and wages | 320 | 6 | 0 |
| Medicines | 29 | 10 | 3 |
| Cloathing, linen and shoes | 228 | 14 | 0 |
| Furniture | 148 | 19 | 11 |
| Repairs and alterations | 124 | 2 | 1 |
| Stationary, printing, and advertisements | 102 | 8 | 2 |
| Stamps, postage, poundage, duty, &c. | 103 | 13 | 7 |
| Gratuities to pupils, and tools given them | 51 | 16 | 8 |
| | 2191 | 15 | 7 |
| Balance on hand | 1299 | 4 | 7 |
| | £3491 | 0 | 2 |

Total balance in favour of the institution, viz.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|----|
| Profit on trade | 584 | 4 | 3 |
| General balance | 1299 | 4 | 7 |
| | £1683 | 8 | 10 |

Officers, Teachers, &c.

Housekeeper, superintendent, and menial servants reside.

Whether the following do or not, does not appear, viz. Four masters, one mistress, and the secretary.

It is intended to retain permanently some of the best qualified pupils to instruct the others, and keep up the credit of the school.

Government of the School.

Vested in a president, eight vice presidents, a treasurer and a committee of twenty four, who meet quarterly. A sub-committee inspects and arranges the school, and meets oftener. Three visitors are elected half yearly by the committee.

Three auditors elected annually. Trustees elected annually, in whose names investments in the funds are made.

General meetings three times a year.

To constitute a member of the committee, an annual subscription of two guineas is required, and twenty guineas at once, or within one year, to make a governor for life.

Miscellaneous Notices.

Not designed for persons in extreme indigence, for the reasons assigned at Liverpool. Therefore an obligation is required on the part of some respectable housekeeper, in or near London, to take out the pupil when instructed, or defray the burial charges in the

event of death. When any allowance is given by parishes or friends, a similar guarantee for the regular payment thereof is expected. Printed forms of interrogatories to be answered previous to admission, are also kept here.

An enlargement of the institution is in contemplation, and a building fund accumulating.

BRISTOL.

Instituted 1794, remained in obscurity till 1802.

PUPILS*Numbers, when Admitted, &c.*

Twenty nine, viz. nineteen males, ten females, commenced in 1794, with three males, and three females.

Age...Admitted between twelve and thirty, only. Females board in the house with the matron, but this is an arrangement of their own, without expense to the charity. Males boarded by the charity abroad. Allowed three-pence per week at first, and wages increased according to their industry. Parishes and friends give some assistance. Pupils are clothed partly by endowments for the purpose.

Trades, Manufactures, Machinery, &c.

Baskets, cradles, bird cages, flower and work baskets of the finest kinds (some at a guinea each) table mats, shoe mats, cooper's tallies, spinning laces, huckaback, no music.

Machinery...Use platting machines. Trades so soon learned that many double their wages within the year.

Income, Funds, and rate of contribution.

| | 1807. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|----|
| Annual subscriptions | 352 | 10 | 0 | |
| Legacies and donations | 33 | 5 | 6 | |
| Found in poor boxes | 45 | 3 | 2 | |
| Gross product of goods manufactured, and sold | 1007 | 6 | 2 | |
| Interest and dividend on securities, &c. | 152 | 8 | 2 | |
| Allowances from parishes, and friends | 79 | 4 | 6 | |
| | 1669 | 17 | 5 | |
| Balance on hand at end of last year | 308 | 7 | 4 | |
| | £1978 | 4 | 9 | |

Possess 5000*l.* in three per cents.

Rate of contributions...Subscriptions one to two guineas, only two of five guineas. Donations, average ten pounds, one above one hundred pounds.

Expenditure.

1807.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Weekly wages, and cloathing to the blind . . . | 437 | 5 | 4 |
| Purchases of stock . . . | 249 | 10 | 0 |
| Advanced on account of parishes, and friends . . . | 85 | 19 | 2 |
| Two masters for their labour and instructions . . . | 152 | 15 | 8 |
| Superintendant, matron and servant . . . | 67 | 8 | 4 |
| Raw materials . . . | 567 | 7 | 0 |
| Furniture, insurance, stamps, printing, coals, candles, &c. . . | 97 | 2 | 0 |
| | 1657 | 8 | 3 |
| Balance in banker's hands . . . | 320 | 16 | 6 |
| | £1978 | 4 | 9 |

Officers, Teachers, &c.

A matron at twenty guineas per annum, with coals and candles, and a servant at six shillings per week, reside.

Two masters at one pound six shillings each, per week, and a secretary at forty guineas per annum.

The masters are mostly at work, and earn the amount of their wages, as the senior pupils, except in difficult cases, are competent to instruct new comers.

Government of the School.

Vested in a treasurer, and a committee of twenty six, and three auditors. Meet annually.

Miscellaneous Notices.

It is intended as the funds shall increase to board and lodge the pupils, to increase their number, and introduce other manufactures.

An idea is also entertained of rendering the institution an asylum for those aged blind who have no claim upon friends or parishes.

NORWICH.

One still in its infancy, on the plan of Liverpool.

The foregoing statement refers chiefly to the year 1807. The accounts for 1808, not being made up when the information was received, a few particulars are extracted from later correspondence, which prove the increasing interest the public take in these establishments. The various modes of making out their accounts, will account for the diversity to be observed, and some alterations in the manner of stating them, seemed ne-

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cessary to show the actual receipts in any one year, &c. This schedule will show that upwards of thirty varieties of handicraft can be performed without the aid of sight, and some other trades not mentioned, have and might be introduced, whether *one, more* or *which* should be attempted in any new establishment will depend much upon contingent and local circumstances. Some expenses may be saved, at least at first, as for music, secretary, &c. on the other hand there cannot be here any allowance from parishes, and probably very little from friends. To board them, as well for moral as other considerations, will probably be deemed most eligible, and in proportion it would seem that the cost would not be greater. When the pupils shall have acquired proficiency, they will no doubt equal those in Great Britain, who manufacture articles in no respect inferior in quality to what can elsewhere be purchased. But at first there must be much waste. For all these reasons, it would hardly be prudent even to begin without a considerable sum, suppose fifteen hundred pounds in hand, and a moral certainty of three hundred to five hundred annually in future. Premises must be extensive. Having space for pits to steep willows in, storage, &c. of easy access, and resorted to by genteel company. This is strongly inculcated by those who are conversant with such establishments.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE DISASTERS AND DEATHS OCCASIONED BY ACCIDENTS.

THAT fortune is changeable and life uncertain, we admit as an unquestionable truth, when speaking of our neighbours; but when nothing disturbs us we seldom seriously apply it to ourselves. It is when confounded by some dreadful spectacle, like that which occurred the other day, a few fields hence, that the humbled mortal becomes sincerely sensible of the presumption of calculating on another hour of existence.

A robust, healthful labourer, went out to assist the woodman in bringing to the ground a tree, which with all its ponderous weight, unexpectedly